R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 4, a disposable wig is provided which comprises a non-customized base formed of an elastic thin sheet having a thickness on the order of microns (μ), hair segments implanted onto the base and having root portions protruding from an underside of the base, and an adhesive layer formed on an entirety of the underside of the base with a uniform thickness. See Figs. 1 and 2 of the present application.

In addition, according to the present invention as recited in independent claim 4, the adhesive layer comprises: (i) projected portions which engage the root portions of the implanted hair segments protruding from the underside of the base, and (ii) remaining portions. As recited in independent claim 4, the projected portions become reversed and are raised toward a surface side of the base when the wig is fitted onto human skin. See Fig. 3 of the present application. And as recited in independent claim 4, the uniform thickness of the adhesive layer is in a range of up to about 20 times greater than the thickness of the base.

With the above described structure of the claimed present invention, several advantageous effects are produced. First,

since the base of the wig has a thickness of the order of microns (for example, 10 microns or 30 microns, as disclosed in Tables 1 and 2 in the specification) a remarkable level difference is achieved as compared to thicker bases (as in Finamore) when the base is fitted onto human skin whereby the borders between the base and the skin are difficult to discern by touch and sight. Second, since the base is difficult to discern by touch and sight, another advantageous effect is produced whereby applications of the wig are expanded to include eyebrow, eyelash, moustache, beard, and the like.

Third, with the structure of the claimed present invention, when the wig is fitted onto a substantially flat surface of human skin (such as the scalp), the projected portions at the underside of the base become substantially flat because of the entire underside of the base being in planar contact with the flat surface of the scalp, and as a result, the projected portions appear at the top surface of the base. See Figs. 2 and 3 of the present application. Accordingly, at the top surface of the base, the projected portions that engage the root portions of the implanted hair segments are raised as compared to the remaining (recessed) portions (Fig. 3). And when the entire top surface of the base becomes so rugged with the upward projected portions and the remaining portions, light that hits the top surface of the base is irregularly reflected producing another advantageous

effect whereby the top surface of the base does not glisten, thereby making the wig hard to distinguish from true hair.

Fourth, due to the above described reversal phenomenon of the rugged underside of the base (that is, the phenomenon whereby the underside of the base having the downward projected portions become flat and the top surface of the base becomes rugged with the upward projected portions), the root portions of the implanted hair segments are urged by the scalp, through the thin adhesive layer, toward the surface side of the base, thereby producing yet another advantageous effect of reinforcing the fixing of the implanted hair segments and preventing the implanted hair segments from being removed from the base. Moreover, since the wig is not custom made for any specific user (i.e., since it is non-customized) and is extremely thin (for example, 10 or 30 microns), the wig of the claimed present invention is usable for an expanded array of applications including eyebrow, eyelash, beard, pubic hair and the like.

In the Office Action, claims 4-11 and 14-17 were again rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over previously cited USP 4,456,019 (“Finamore”), and claims 12 and 13 were again rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Finamore and previously cited US 2001/0037813 (“Ra”). These rejections, however, are again respectfully traversed, and it is again respectfully submitted that Finamore,

even if considered in combination with Ra, does not at all achieve or render obvious the above described claimed features and advantageous effects of the present invention as recited in independent claim 4.

In the Office Action, the Examiner appears to agree that Finamore does not disclose a "non-customized base" as according to the claimed present invention. Indeed, the Examiner does not point out any specific disclosure in Finamore as corresponding to the non-customized base of the claimed present invention. However, in item 6 on page 6 of the Office Action the Examiner asserts that "even if the hairpiece [of Finamore] is made to fit a specific user there is nothing precluding another user from wearing the hairpiece, further it is unclear to the examiner where Finamore states that the hairpiece can only be worn by one user."

In response, it is respectfully submitted that Finamore clearly does not disclose or even remotely suggest that the base of the hairpiece thereof is non-customized as according to the claimed present invention. In particular, it is respectfully pointed out that Finamore discloses at column 2, lines 43-46 that the sheet member (base) 12 is prepared by employing a mold which conforms accurately to the contour of that area of the user's head which is to be covered by the hairpiece 10. In addition, it

is respectfully pointed out that Finamore discloses at column 3, lines 12-21 that:

> According to the practice of the present invention, after the plaster mold 20 is formed and placed on the apparatus 14, a polyethylene thermoplastic sheet is first vacuum formed over the plaster mold 20 to provide a template. The template is then positioned on the user's head to ensure that the template fits precisely. With the template on the head of the user, the outline of the area to be covered by the hairpiece 10 is drawn on the template and is subsequently cut to conform precisely to the area of the user's head. (emphasis added)

Clearly, the hairpiece of Finamore is designed for a specific use by a particular user. That is, contrary to the claimed present invention, the base of the hairpiece of Finamore is customized.

According to MPEP 2143.01 VI, "If the proposed modification or combination of the prior art would change the principle of operation of the prior art invention being modified, then the teachings of the references are not sufficient to render the claims prima facie obvious."

According to Finamore, the customized hairpiece thereof is structured such that it merges as much as possible with the natural hair of the user. In addition, according to Finamore, with the customized hairpiece thereof, it is not necessary to conceal the foundation and the edge of the hairpiece. See column 1, lines 51-56 of Finamore. If, however, the customized hairpiece of Finamore were worn by another user who is not the

intended user of the customized hairpiece, as suggested by the Examiner, the hairpiece would not "merge as much as possible with the natural hair of the user." Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the use of the customized hairpiece of Finamore by another user who is not the intended user thereof would violate the principle of operation of the hairpiece of Finamore. And it is again respectfully submitted that Finamore does not at all achieve or render obvious a non-customized base of a hairpiece as according to the claimed present invention.

As recognized by the Examiner on page 3 of the Office Action, Finamore does not disclose the base being formed from an elastic thin sheet having a thickness on the order of microns (for example, 10 or 30 microns as disclosed in the present specification). Nevertheless, the Examiner asserts that since Finamore discloses a 10 mil (254 microns) base, it would have been obvious to have the thickness be on the order of microns. It is respectfully submitted, however, that the Examiner's assertion is unreasonable given the (much thicker) 10 mil (254 microns) base of Finamore and the above described significant advantageous effects produced by the micron order base of the claimed present invention.

In item 9 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that "being on the order of microns is a very broad term since applicant has not provided a range of microns, therefore,

Finamore discloses that the base is about 10 mils which is 254 microns so Finamore is on the order of microns." In response, it is respectfully pointed out that according to MPEP 2111, during patent examination, the pending claims must be "given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification." (emphasis added). According to the specification of the present application, the micron order base of the wig has a thickness of 10 microns and 30 microns (See Tables 1 and 2). Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner must consider this disclosure in the specification when giving the broadest reasonable interpretation to the "order of microns" language in claim 4. And it is respectfully submitted that the base of Finamore does not at all correspond to the micron order base of the claimed present invention.

With the structure of the micron order base of the claimed present invention, the above described advantageous effects of indistinguishableness from natural hair, irregular reflections, and reversal phenomenon of the rugged underside of the base are produced. Since the base of Finamore is relatively much thicker (10 mils) as compared to that of the claimed present invention, it is respectfully submitted that Finamore does not produce the advantageous effects of indistinguishableness from natural hair, irregular reflections, and reversal phenomenon of the rugged

underside of the base, that are produced by the extremely thin base of the claimed present invention.

Still further, it is also respectfully submitted that contrary to the Examiner's assertion on page 3 of the Office Action, Finamore does not at all disclose or suggest the feature of the present invention as recited in independent claim 4 whereby when the wig is fitted onto human skin, the projected portions become reversed and are raised toward surface side of the base.

According to the present invention as recited in independent claim 4, an adhesive layer is formed on an entirety of the underside of the base with a uniform thickness. See Fig. 2 of the present application. According to the Examiner on page 2 of the Office Action, the underside 35 of the sheet member 12 of Finamore corresponds to the adhesive layer of the claimed present invention. However, as disclosed in Figs. 5-8 and column 3, line 66 to column 4, line 1 thereof, Finamore discloses that an adhesive material 38 having an extremely low viscosity is applied to an underside 35 of the sheet member 12 using brush 36. Further, at column 4, lines 58-61 thereof, Finamore discloses that the user applies transparent double-sided tape strips to the hairpiece 10 to secure it to the head of the user. These tape strips may be considered correspond to the adhesive layer of the claimed present invention. However, it is respectfully submitted

that, contrary to the claimed present invention, Finamore does not disclose or suggest that the tape strips are formed on an entirety of the underside of the base with a uniform thickness. Further, it is noted that as clearly shown in Fig. 6, the layer formed on the underside 35 with the adhesive material 38 is also not formed with a uniform thickness.

Ra, moreover, has been merely cited with respect to the subject matter of dependent claims 12 and 13.

Still further, it is noted that on page 3 of the Office Action the Examiner asserts that "regarding [claim] 14, the base (12) is deformed into a substantially rugged sheet when the wig is fitted onto the human skin (see Figure 6). Regarding claim 16, when the wig is not fitted onto the human skin an underside of the adhesive layer which is formed on the entire underside of the base is substantially rugged (see Figure 6)." Applicant respectfully disagrees with these assertions.

Fig. 6 of Finamore and the specification thereof merely discloses a process of making wigs. As shown in Fig. 8, which shows the final product, the underside of the wig of Finamore is smooth (not rugged), and therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the reversal phenomenon of the rugged underside of the base so as to deform the (upper side of) base into a substantially rugged sheet when the wig is fitted onto the human skin, which occurs with the structure of the claimed present invention, is

not at all disclosed or suggested by Finamore. Indeed, since the base (12) thereof is relatively much thicker and the underside thereof is formed with multiple layers (corresponding to reference numerals 35, 42 and 44) on top of which, the tape strips are applied to secure the wig to the head of the user, it is respectfully submitted that the reversal phenomenon and corresponding advantageous effects cannot be achieved with the hairpiece of Finamore.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in independent claim 4, and claims 5-17 depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over Finamore and Ra, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 103.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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